

EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS

HONOLULU

July 13, 2004

STATEMENT OF OBJECTIONS TO SENATE BILL NO. 2077

Honorable Members
Twenty-Second Legislature
State of Hawaii

Pursuant to Section 16 of Article III of the Constitution of the State of Hawaii, I am returning herewith, without my approval, Senate Bill No. 2077, entitled "A Bill for an Act Relating to Planning."

The purpose of this bill is to require state agencies to update their functional plans by June 30, 2006, and update the plans every ten years.

This bill is objectionable because it creates a mandate without additional resources and funding provided by the Legislature to carry it out.

The significant costs associated with updating functional plans have not been factored into the state financial plan, and no funds were appropriated for this project. Without additional staff and resources, existing staff and resources may have to be diverted from essential departmental programs.

Further, it is not apparent that the functional plans prepared in 1989 and 1991 have served as an effective decision-making tool for State agencies. Additionally, this bill would require duplicative work for areas such as recreation, where a State outdoor recreational plan was completed as recently as 2003.

Currently, the Hawaii State Planning Act, chapter 226, Hawaii Revised Statutes, does not mandate a required interval for updating functional plans. The fast-changing pace of local, national, and global events suggests that greater flexibility is needed. The Governor and the executive branch agencies should be given discretion to undertake updates as circumstances may

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dictate and in the subject areas that reflect Executive Branch priorities.

For the foregoing reasons, I am returning Senate Bill No. 2077 without my approval.

Respectfully,

LINDA LINGLE
Governor of Hawaii